Invitation to NRIs for Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas

*47. SHRI YADLAPATIVENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of NRIs who were issued invitation by Government for first meeting of "PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIWAS" held on the 9th January, 2003 in New Delhi;

(b) the number of NRIs who actually attended the meeting;

(c) whether such meeting of the NRIs would be called every year in future;

(d) whether a permanent Organisation of NRIs has been set up in Delhi under the auspices of Government; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The first Pravasi Bharatiya Divas held from 9-11 January, 2003 was open to NRIs and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) through registration and no invitation was needed to be issued. A few very eminent persons were however invited to address important sessions.

(b) As per the registration details the meeting had a combined presence of NRIs and PIOs totalling 1904.

(c) The Government has accepted the recommendation of the High Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora to celebrate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas every year.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

Self-sufficiency in launching heavier satellites

*48. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have achieved self-sufficiency in launching heavier satellites;